His letter 12/15 & clip under Broshears

12/13/68

Dear Hal,

Thus far I've avoided interviewing all the off-beat preachers because there are undependable at best and rascals usually. Broshears is no exception. His behavior in New Orleans was, even for that tolerant town, scandalous. If every thing he said were true, who could believe him? He and others like him have caused a tremenduous waste of time and energy that could better be spent almost any other way. More, I do not believe Ferrie ever told anyone what Broshears says he told him. These guys almost without exception feed back what they know Jim wants and is talking about, each seeking a little glory at the same time.

He chased young boys through New Orleans, created a scene at Barbara Reid's when he wanted to bring one in, got himself arrested in his cavortings only to proclaim immunity because he was Garrison's star witness, was finally eased out of town and went back west to announce he had given 14 hours of the most important testimony, and awarded almost everyone in the office an honorary bishopric! Believe him?

Associating with him is in itself bad, as Jaffe did. It will not be of help if any use is made at the trial, nor does it tend to make people think we are responsible.

They are all crooks of one kind or another, making a devious living in a very devious way, preying on others. In this story, they are in character.

On threats against Jim: by all means report them to Louis Ivon, for who can take a chance. I do not believe he has been in any danger for a long time. Having become his own worst enemy by his excesses, he eliminated any need for killing him. However, these threats fed him have kept him worried, worse than that, from what Vince says. I now think at least some were intended only as a war of nerves.

I think it a mistake to pay the slightest attention to these guys when there is so much legitimate work to be done. However, I did, immediately, relay your message to Louis and I gave him a memo on it.

There has been a major disaster in this endless feeding of bad information. It has perhaps ruined the investigation. One of the worst offenders was Turner. If he supplied a single piece of worthwhile information, I have not found it, save when he forwarded the work of others as his own, and that was not common. The money alone this caused ~~could~~ have made a major difference. He teamed up with Boxley on some things. At the very best it looks awfully suspicious. Vince and Gary are convinced he is an agent; I am not, but does it make much difference when the effect is evaluated?

Jim seemed close to using some of this stuff several times, did get too close in public too often. One of the worst is Rose. I'd like every thing you know about him, in detail, especially on "The Plot", Herve Lamarre, etc. That, I am convinced, is an intelligence operation, not French, and there are some rather nice fits with other things already. I regard this as important. When we can be face to face again I can tell you what I now cannot. But believe me, we were all on the brink of disaster. It is so far out you'll have trouble crediting it.

Save for the fortunate accident of my unexpected return to New Orleans, atbhis request, when I was in Dallas, it might by now be all over.

There is and has been too much of a tendency out there to take Jim's every pronouncement as the true given word. It is anything but that, as the most casual analysis should show. People should do their own thinking, not be sycophants. I am not addressing you but am making a general observation that I think you will see is too-widely applicable, especially among the newsletters ans the underground papers.

In any event, in New Orleans the sole direction must be toward the Shaw trial. I do not know what evidence he may have of which I have no knowledge, but I also know of no cause for rejoicing. I think it is possible the case may be lost technically if not factually. They have asked me to return as soon as I can, before the trial, and I shall. I will wait until I hear from Moo. My best estimate at the moment is about mid-January.

If, instead of following theb Turners and Boxleys (and Palmers) and Lanes whose tongues tickled his ass, Jim had concentrated on his local stuff, where he has jurisdiction and where slight sums would have been sufficient, Jim would have had several other viable cases ready for court. I know what I've been able to develop down there, and that in a relatively short amount of working time. I think he'd have been able to get the kind of indictments he really wants. As it is, aside from the indictment of Shaw, he has nothing on the assassination itself, not on any of the preludes.

The rest of us, however, must do our own things. We have the entire field to cover, and that we should, independently, and without feeding everything to him for him to use or abuse as he sees fit. New Orleans material, by all means, but nothing not related to it. The alternative is to destroy the usefulness of all the solid evidence dug up.

We'll have enough of a disaster if he fails in court, particularly after all his big talk based on nothing, about the kinds of things he can not present to a jury that may well be awaiting them.

Gotta get back to work. Chin up, tight belt, and a good year!

Sincerely,